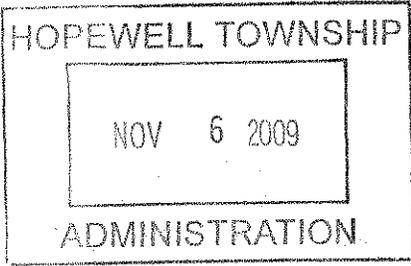


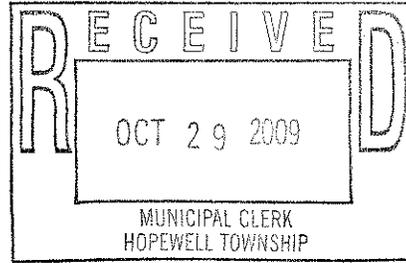
*c: Committee  
Adm/Eng PP.*



Mr. Robert B. Britton, Jr.  
98 West Upper Ferry Road  
Ewing, New Jersey 08628-1019

October 26, 2009

Hon. Ms. Vanessa Sandom, Mayor  
Township of Hopewell  
Municipal Building  
201 Washington Crossing-Pennington Road  
Titusville, New Jersey 08560-1410



Dear Mayor Sandom:

On behalf of the Ewing Township Historic Preservation Commission, I am writing to express the Commission's support of Hopewell Township's efforts to preserve the historic significance of the Jacob's Creek Bridge.

Much has been said about the bridge and the area surrounding it as an important link in the route over which General George Washington's army marched to Trenton on Christmas night, 1776. The route, now known as Bear Tavern Road, figured prominently in the factual account of the "Ten Crucial Days," i.e., the battles of Trenton and Princeton, which ultimately changed the course of American history. Therefore, this portion of the route, which includes the bridge, has an intrinsic historic value which cannot, and should not, be overlooked.

It should be recognized that Ewing Township shares a common bond with Hopewell Township in that, within these two communities, lies the major portion of the route over which the Continental Army marched. Therefore, we share mutual concerns. Chief among these is the possibility that if the bridge was to be enlarged and no weight restrictions imposed, then Bear Tavern Road could be used to accommodate tractor-trailer trucks and a larger volume of traffic. The enlargement of the bridge and the lack of weight restrictions might encourage tractor-trailer truck drivers to use Bear Tavern Road as a preferred route of travel from Route 31 to I-95. If that was to occur, the peaceful serenity along the entire length of Bear Tavern Road, in both Hopewell and Ewing Townships, would be destroyed.

In this discussion, it is important to note that further north, at the intersection of Route 31 and County Route 579 (known locally as Bear Tavern Road) in East Amwell Township, truck drivers could make a choice as to which route to travel while enroute to Philadelphia. By selecting the Bear Tavern Road route, distance and travel time could be reduced by approximately four miles. Added to this are the problems inherent in increased heavy duty truck traffic, namely, a significant increase in noise levels, wear and tear on existing road surfaces that are not meant to support heavy truck traffic, and a possible decrease in property values stemming from a change in the character of the road itself.

In conclusion, it is hoped that our mutual concerns, regarding the bridge, will be given serious consideration by Mercer County officials during the decision-making process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert B. Britton, Jr.", written in dark ink.

Robert B. Britton, Jr.  
Ewing Township Historic Preservation  
Commission

- cc: Hon. Mr. Brian Hughes, County Executive, County of Mercer  
Hon. Mr. John Ball, Mayor, Township of Ewing  
Mr. Max Hayden, Chairperson, Hopewell Township Historic Preservation Commission  
Ms. Carol Vernam Hill, Chairperson, Ewing Township Historic Preservation Commission



## State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

NATURAL & HISTORIC RESOURCES, HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

PO Box 404, Trenton, NJ 08625

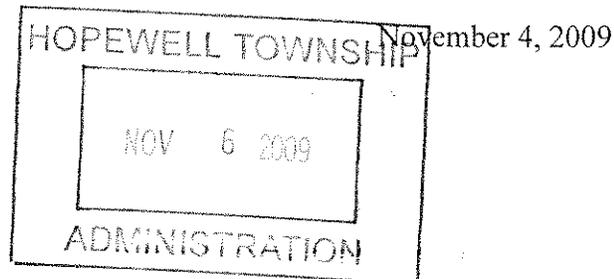
TEL: (609) 984-0176 FAX: (609) 984-0578

www.state.nj.us/dep/hpo

JON S. CORZINE  
*Governor*

MARK N. MAURIELLO  
*Acting Commissioner*

Elisabeth Goeke Kerr  
1139 Bear Tavern Road  
Titusville, NJ 08560



Dear Ms. Kerr:

The preliminary application that you have submitted for Washington's Victory Trail and Jacob's Creek Bridge, Hopewell Township, Mercer County, has been reviewed. We thank you for taking the time to prepare the application.

As you noted in your letter, the Bear Tavern Road Bridge over Jacob's Creek has already been identified as eligible. A State Historic Preservation Officer's Opinion of Eligibility was issued for the bridge on June 3, 1991. For the bridge to be listed in the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places, a nomination application would need to be prepared and submitted to the HPO for review. Enclosed you will find a nomination application packet.

To be eligible for listing, an historic property must be a district, site, building or object that possesses historic significance and integrity. In this case, the route General Washington and the Continental Army travelled would most likely be identified as a site or potentially an historic district. Several pieces of additional information are needed to facilitate the evaluation of this historic property. The following information/issues should be considered and demonstrated:

- Was the road that existed in 1776 in the location of the current road? Has the roadway been significantly widened? Colonial period roads are generally presumed to have a cart-way width of between 12 and 15 feet unless there is specific evidence to the contrary.
- Has the road way been flattened, either raised or lowered significantly? Has it shifted to one side or another? We need to determine whether changes to the roadway have impacted the integrity of the site.
- There was not a bridge over the creek in 1776, could the crossing have occurred in a slightly different location? Especially if the roadway were of different size?
- Is the existing bridge the first bridge to cross Jacob's Creek? If not, was the previous bridge in the same location or was the alignment different?
- Does this location best convey what the area looked like in the period, (wooded, cleared, etc)? Although topography suggests planting with crops would have been unlikely, it

may have been suitable for grazing. How would other sections of the road, before or after this location, have appeared and do they convey the historic appearance?

- Are you proposing registration of the larger/longer route that Washington followed, or just this section near Jacob's Creek?
- Is there a possible historic district related to the evolution of transportation in the vicinity of Bear Tavern Road Bridge.
- A small scale location map will be needed, showing more of the surrounding area, including the intersection with Jacob's Creek Road.

For further guidance regarding integrity, please see the attached information. This has been excerpted from National Register Bulletin "How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation". Bulletin 30 "Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes" may also contain useful information and it can be found at <http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb30/> or a PDF version of the document can be emailed to you.

We understand that Mercer County will be hiring a professional Cultural Resources consultant to conduct research and investigation of the site as part of a Freshwater Wetlands Permit application process. This will entail the County's consultant evaluating the significance of this segment of Bear Tavern Road. Much of that investigation will attempt to answer the issues I have outlined above. For your reference, I have attached a copy of the letter that was sent to the Mercer County Engineer regarding the Bear Tavern Road Bridge over Jacob's Creek.

Thank you for your interest in New Jersey's irreplaceable historic resources..  
If you have any questions, please contact me at 609-292-0032 or [sara.andre@dep.state.nj.us](mailto:sara.andre@dep.state.nj.us).

Sincerely,



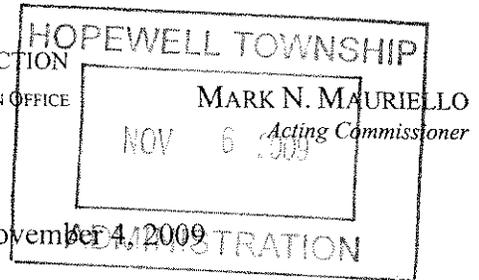
Sara André  
Historic Preservation  
Specialist

- C: Cate Litvack, Crossroads of the American Revolution, Inc.  
✓ Paul Pogorzelski, Administrator/Engineer, Hopewell Township  
Pamela Crabtree, Chair, Hopewell Township Historic Preservation Commission  
Greg Sandusky, County Engineer



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JON S. CORZINE  
Governor

Rhonda W. Katz  
52 Maddock Road  
Titusville, NJ 08560

Dear Ms. Katz:

The preliminary application that you have submitted for 52 Maddock Road, Hopewell Township, Mercer County, has been reviewed. We thank you for taking the time to prepare the application. To be eligible for listing, an historic resource must not only be significant within the established criteria, but also possess integrity. For the Historic Preservation Office (HPO) to evaluate eligibility, several pieces of information are still needed.

Clarification regarding the boundaries of the nominated property is required. The application references your house, at 52 Maddock Road, on the questionnaire page. However the accompanying letter comments on the Bear Tavern Road Bridge over Jacob's Creek, as well as the route General George Washington and the Continental Army travelled to Trenton. The submitted accompanying documentation does not aid in clarifying this issue as it includes a survey map of your property, a map of the proposed roadway, a Washington Victory Trail map, and photos of the bridge, creek and a hillside on your property. For the HPO to evaluate eligibility, we must clearly understand which resource(s) you are submitting as a preliminary application.

The Bear Tavern Road Bridge over Jacob's Creek was identified as eligible by a State Historic Preservation Officer's Opinion of Eligibility issued on June 3, 1991. For the Bridge to be listed in the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places, a nomination application would need to be prepared and submitted to the HPO for Review. Enclosed you will find a nomination application packet.

If you are seeking to determine whether your house is eligible for listing in the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Registers, the HPO requests the following:

- Current color photographs of the house (several exterior views and interior if there are distinctive features).
- A brief history of the house.
- A brief written description of the house.

- A brief description of any alterations that may have occurred (additions, window replacements, siding replacement, etc).

To aid in the evaluation of the route Washington and the Continental Army took from the Delaware River to the Battle of Trenton in December 1776, identifiable cultural features (those altered by man) that date to and are associated with the troops' route must be present. For a property to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places, it must be a district, site, building, structure, and/or object that possesses historic significance and integrity. In this case, the route General Washington and the Continental Army travelled would most likely be identified as a site or potentially an historic district. The following information/issues should be considered and demonstrated:

- Was the road that existed in 1776 in the location of the current road? Has the roadway been significantly widened? Colonial period roads are generally presumed to have a cart-way width of between 12 and 15 feet unless there is specific evidence to the contrary.
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copy of the letter that was sent to the Mercer County Engineer regarding the Bear Tavern Road Bridge over Jacob's Creek.

Thank you for your interest in New Jersey's irreplaceable historic resources. If you have any questions, please contact me at 609-292-0032 or [sara.andre@dep.state.nj.us](mailto:sara.andre@dep.state.nj.us).

Sincerely,



Sara André  
Historic Preservation  
Specialist

- C: Cate Litvack, Crossroads of the American Revolution, Inc.  
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